

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /094 W

-----202215Z 027220 /75

R 201459Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4475

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 3166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ENRG, PE

SUBJ: GULF: TAX PROBLEM SETTLED; DECREE LAW TO MOVE FORWARD

REF: A) LIMA 2887, B) FULLER/TODMAN MEMORANDUM, APRIL 12, 1977

1. ACTING ON URGING OF EMBASSY (REF A) GULF'S PERUVIAN LAWYER, RAUL FERRERO, APRIL 15 PAID COMPANY'S OUTSTANDING TAX LIABILITY. FINANCE VICE MINISTER KEIL CONFIRMED THAT PAYMENT HAD BEEN MADE AND INFORMED ECON OFF THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD GIVEN GREEN LIGHT FOR DRAFT DECREE LAW TO PROCEED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. KEIL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FINANCE, ENERGY AND MINES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS MINISTRIES HAD ALL CLEARED DRAFT DECREE LAW, NORMAL PROCEDURE WAS FOR EACH GOP MINISTRY TO HAVE A LOOK AT PROSPECTIVE LEGISLATION BEFORE IT GOES TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL. WHEN ECON OFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DRAFT WOULD BE ON COUNCIL AGENDA APRIL 26 MEETING, KEIL CAUTIONED THAT EMBASSY BE PATIENT SINCE THIS CLEARANCE PROCESS COULD TAKE SEVERAL MORE WEEKS.

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2. ENERGY VICE MINISTER TORD APRIL 18 INVITED ECON OFF TO HIS OFFICE TO SHOW LATTER INTER-MINISTERIAL MEMORANDUM FROM KEIL TO TORD ADVISING TORD OF GULF'S TAX LIABILITY. TORD APPEARED PLEASED WHEN ECON OFF TOLD HIM THAT THE TAXES HAD BEEN PAID. TORD SAID THAT THAT MEANT DECREE LAW COULD BE CONSIDERED AT APRIL 26 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS'

MEETING. WHEN ADVISED OF KEIL'S CAUTION ON OVER-
OPTIMISM REGARDING TIMING OF APPROVAL OF DECREE LAW,
TORD SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PUSH CONSIDERATION
OF DRAFT LEGISLATION TO APRIL 26 MEETING. ECON OFF
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE WOULD DO SO, MENTIONING
CONTINUING GULF PRESSURE IN WASHINGTON AND CITING
CONTENTS APRIL 8 GULF LETTER (REF B) AS BEING MOST
RECENT EXAMPLE.

3. FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON KEIL'S IMMEDIATE
STAFF TOLD ECON OFF APRIL 18 THAT DESPITE KEIL'S
CAUTIOUS VIEW HE BELIEVED DRAFT LAW WOULD BE ON
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' AGENDA ON APRIL 26. ECON
OFF URGED HIM TO DO HIS BEST TO ENSURE THIS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOP OFFICIALS' ASSURANCES
OF IMMINENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION
OF DRAFT DECREE LAW IS OLD FAMILIAR SCORE PLAYED
TO US NUMEROUS TIMES IN LAST 4-6 MONTHS, PAYMENT
OF TAX CLAIMS BY GULF DOES APPEAR TO REMOVE
OBSTACLE WHICH HAS HELD UP PASSAGE OF ALREADY-
DRAFTED DECREE LAW SINCE FEBRUARY. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE TO GOP OFFICIALS THE
IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING ACTION ON THIS CASE AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LAW, DEBT REPAYMENTS, TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA03166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770137-0934
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770439/aaaabhdo.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c28f2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LIMA 2887
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2751121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF: TAX PROBLEM SETTLED; DECREE LAW TO MOVE FORWARD
TAGS: BDIS, ENRG, PGOV, EFIN, PE, US, GULF OIL CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c28f2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009